

Summer 6-1975

Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 47, no.4

RILA

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BULLETIN



*JUNE *

MONEY AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1975

THE RILA BULLETIN Summer 1975
Volume 47, No. 4

BULLETIN STAFF:

- Lee Flanagan, Editor
Pawtucket Public Library
13 Summer St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860
(722-8841)
- Myron Kirkes, Asst., Editor for
Production
Pawtucket Public Library (723-5350)
- Kevin Carty, Advertising Manager
Metropolitan Property & Liability
Insurance (738-2800)
- Lynn Bohling, Circulation Manager
60 Ivan Ave., Warwick, R.I. (738-8892)
- Ann Dickson, Feature Articles, News
No. Kingston (884-8804)
- Betsy Gates, News
University of Rhode Island (792-2653)
- Ron Heroux, News, Feature Articles
Technical Library Laisi
Naval Underwater Systems Center
(841 4421 ext. 4338)
- Mary Champagne, Staff Secretary
Pawtucket Public Library (723-5350)
- Patricia Pothier, Production Assistant
Pawtucket Public Library (723-4054)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Beginning July 1975 the Bulletin will appear on a monthly basis in the middle of each month. News and articles should be submitted to the Editor by the beginning of each month. The Bulletin staff can only promise to publish the news it actually receives from the library community.

The Bulletin is a newsletter and journal of opinion for public, school, college and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, it is open to news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership or the Bulletin staff. All articles are signed except for those written by the editor.

Bulletin subscription rates are \$6.00/year for agencies or individuals not holding membership in RILA.

Advertising rates are available on request.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

This spring Derryl Johnson, twice Bulletin editor for over four years of cumulative service, resigned. As the RILA Executive Board stated recently, she has invariably had to beg news and opinion for each issue of the Bulletin, she has frequently spent the wee hours of her mornings over layout boards and typewriters, and she has faced not only printer's deadlines but also printer's failures. Consequently, the RILA membership overwhelmingly approved a Spring Conference resolution expressing their deep appreciation of Derryl Johnson's work as Bulletin editor. Those who have worked with her know that she well deserves that expression of appreciation.

The Bulletin staff and I will try to carry on Derryl's work. There will be some changes, however, largely because our circumstances have changed. There are new staff members joining us (and I hope still others will). There has of late been a demand for a more frequent Bulletin amongst the membership, and the budget has been increased, so the Bulletin will appear monthly from now on. Format will change because Bulletin is now being printed by library staff rather than commercial printers. This results in a Bulletin perhaps less sophisticated in appearance but more quickly published. As for content, well, you can see the changes in this issue. Your reactions to these changes will be very much appreciated and will bring about many future changes that will occur.

The Bulletin welcomes news of upcoming library events, brilliant letters to the editor, gentle or tough rebuttals of previously published items, expressions of opinion, and statements of effusive praise or criticism. News of your library or organization can only be published if you get it to us. We beg individuals, especially administrators, regional coordinators, and committee chairpeople to keep us up to date. Just phone any Bulletin editor or feature writer. Columns are open in the Bulletin, on a regular or irregular basis, to major library institutions or groups like the Graduate Library School, the State Department of Library Services, RILA committees, Social Responsibilities Round Table. Just telephone the editor.

The Bulletin also needs articles, on contemporary subjects, on subjects of interest especially to small and medium sized libraries, on personnel matters, on library innovations and experiments, on Southern New England libraries. Such articles can be popular or scholarly in tone, and may run from a few paragraphs to about ten typed double-spaced pages in length. Please consult with the editor regarding longer articles. And please also feel free to call on us if you have questions or need help with revisions. The Bulletin is your opportunity to address any library issue.

Speaking of articles, our cover article, "Money and the Public Library," follows. The cover itself is a portion of a larger work by contemporary Polish graphics artist Jan Lenica.

MONEY AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY; OR, THE DEATH OF THE FREE SERVICE MYTH.

The third, latest, and supposedly last draft of the National Commission on Library and Information Science's proposal for a national information network is out. It gathers together in one document the differing views and needs of libraries and information services. But as John Berry said in a May 15 LJ editorial, it does not resolve their differences.

One difference, perhaps resolved by implication, has to do with the public libraries' contention that information should be provided free of charge and the commercial information industry's claim that information should cost money. It appears that NCLIS is saying that information should, and does cost money, a not too unexpected conclusion since the NCLIS proposal is authored by some of the leaders of the information industry.

If the public libraries want to have top flight bibliographic control, last copy storage, and electronic network retrieval systems to provide information on demand in the United States, they are going to have to come up with a lot of money. While NCLIS does agree that local governments have been shouldering an unfair share (81%) of library costs, it does not believe that the federal government should take over. Rather, NCLIS recommends that the federal government match funds to local libraries only to bring them up to network standards or to enable them to do innovative work to hook into networks. What it does recommend is that the states pick up a larger share of the funding, beginning at 20%, and in ten years picking up 50% of the tab for public library support.

If the Rhode Island legislature, which has zapped library legislation several years in a row, has to pick up 50% of the tab for public libraries, the NCLIS national network is going to take a lot longer than ten years to develop. Two hundred years might be more like it. Or public libraries might be left out of the national network.

However, the point is not when will the states substantially fund public libraries. The point is that NCLIS expects the states, as well as the local communities, to do it. The point is that public libraries are going to have to secure a much larger infusion of state money to keep pace with the commercial information industry and work with it. Larger state appropriations are the information industry's price for cooperation with public libraries. And state or local appropriations amount to dollars, taxpayers' dollars, for information.

If we buy the NCLIS proposal, and wish to utilize a national network for really first class information provision, then we as librarians and our communities in general are going to have to accept the information industry's thesis that in the United States information costs cash, that a free public library is a myth, that open access to information will cost the taxpayers a bundle. We just might be a little more successful in getting local and state support if we take an organized account of how much it costs to provide various units of information and let the public know. We might be more successful at maintaining circulation if we stop telling the taxpayer about "free" public library service. What can it be worth if it's free? Rather, we should be telling the taxpayer each book circulation costs one - two - three dollars, whatever, and if he's paying to circulate books only to other people, he's cheating himself out of his own tax money. At any rate, the quasi communistic Franciscan myth of a free public library, maintainable when the library was isolated from an effective utilitarian money-making society, must go if the public library is going to become an integral part of that society, a part which is effective, utilitarian and money oriented. Socialistic institutions in overwhelmingly capitalistic societies fare poorly.

THE CALENDAR

Note please that you can telephone news of upcoming library meetings to any one of the Bulletin staff, and that news will be listed in this monthly section of the Bulletin. Be sure to include day, hour, place and subject of the meeting.

- June 19 Regional Meeting, Western Interrelated Library System, Foster Public Library, 10 a.m.
- June 24 Meeting, RILA Executive Board, Rhode Island College, noon.
- June 24 General Meeting of all members RILA Long Range Plan Implementation Committee, Henry Barnard School, RIC, 2 p.m.
- June 29-July 4 ALA - Annual Conference, San Francisco.
- July 7-July 25 Summer Institute in Children's Literature, Simmons College, Boston, Mass. Phone the Library School for information.
- July 8 Meeting, Social Responsibilities Round Table "Sharing Talents and Resources," home of Diane Kadanoff, 25 Grotto Ave., Providence, 7:30 p.m.
- July 11 Meeting, Staff of RILA Bulletin, Pawtucket Library Conference Room, 3:30 p.m. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
- August 17-23 New England Educational Media Association, "Education of Librarians and Administrators in non-print media," Rhode Island College, Tritrack Interaction Institute. Call Peter Salesses, DSLS, for information.
- September 27 New England Library Trustees Association, Annual Meeting, "The White House Conference on Libraries," Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- September 28 NELA Pre Conference for Supportive Staff, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- September 28-30 NELA Annual Conference, "The Art of Practical Library Politics," Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

DUBIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF THE MONTH

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is now forecasting that there will be 50000 college graduates for which there are no jobs in 1980, and an astonishing 700,000 graduates without jobs in 1985. The greatest area of growth will be in areas where only vocational training will be required and college degrees will be unnecessary.

It looks like college graduates might do well to rediscover John Henry Cardinal Newman's little essay "The Idea of a University." As you will recall, Newman said that the purpose of a university education was to develop habits of good judgment, and not to prepare a student for employment. I am not certain that colleges and universities are better prepared than they have been to train students in habits of good judgment. But it is certain that institutions of higher education are doing an excellent job of not preparing students for employment. Congratulations college administrators wherever you are.

THE EXCHANGE

The Exchange will appear each month so long as useful for the purpose of selling, buying, swapping or giving away materials useful to libraries. Items wanted as well as items available may be advertised free by calling one of the editors.

Wanted: issues of MS magazine, especially earlier numbers. Telephone Earleen McCarthy, Lincoln Public Library, 724-5470.

Giveaway: large double drawer 5 x 8 card file. Telephone 421-7269 evenings.

Giveaway: Burne Jones' Pre Raphaelite "King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid," English poster, 22 w x 48 h inches. Telephone 421-7269 evenings.

Wanted: recent issues of the RILA Bulletin, especially numbers in volumes 45 and 46, and numbers 1 and 2 in volume 47. Send to the Bulletin editor.

RILA SPRING CONFERENCE

While May 22nd's RILA Spring Conference was held on Bryant College's beautiful new campus, the Conference seemed to take its cue more from the day's weather than from the surrounding facilities. Beginning on a cool, humid, and uncertainly overcast day, the morning sessions moved rather unsurely through an open discussion of the new Intellectual Freedom Committee Handbook and unsteadily through some poorly organized workshops prefacing A. J. Anderson's talk "Every Librarian a Manager." However, Anderson, professor of library science at Simmons College, perked up his audience with sage observations on participatory management and witty examples of communications breakdowns. But the weather remained unpredictable when at lunch time members learned that guest speaker Attorney General Julius Michaelson would not be present, and that Charles Churchwell's Search Committee was not certain exactly when it would recommend a candidate for the directorship at DSLS. Skies seemed to darken remarkably as lunch ended.

At the business meeting which followed, Jean Nash presented the Treasurer's Report and Jim Healey followed with a report on the defeat of legislation to increase state funding to libraries. As co-chairman of the Government Relations Committee, Jim noted that this just "wasn't the year" for money legislation. RILA President James Giles (conducting the Business Meeting) exhorted the membership to get an early start on money legislation in the coming year and quoted Myron Kirkes to the effect that "we need to get a few more people, to work a little harder, on a more sustained basis."

Names of new officers were announced by Ann Parent on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Nancy Peace is corresponding secretary; Margaret Deignan, recording secretary; Jean Nash, treasurer; and Dan Bergen, vice president. By the time Louise Sherby, chairwoman of the Long Range Plan Implementation Committee, made her brisk and concise progress report, the skies began to clear. Louise noted that the Long Range subcommittee studying the need for a state library publicist is doing a formal survey of current library publicity programs. A second subcommittee, focusing on continuing education, is doing a triple study of the needs of administrators, librarians and support staff. Working on the feasibility of a statewide public library borrower's card, a third subcommittee is determining what is happening in other New England states. And a fourth subcommittee is working with the R. I. School Media Association to convince the Commissioner of Education of the need for a school library Specialist in the Department of Education.

Roberta Cairns, conference chairwoman for this and many previous conferences, is stepping down. She was praised for the considerable work she has done, and was applauded by the membership. Then the membership passed a number of resolutions. The first expressed appreciation of Derryl Johnson's work as Bulletin editor. The second supported question #3 in the June 24 1975 bond issue referendum providing for a \$2.6 million expansion of Rhode Island College's Adams Library. And a third resolution recognized Dr. James Healey's contributions as RILA member and URI library science professor. Jim will be leaving Rhode Island in the fall to become Dean of the School of Library Science at the University of Oklahoma.

When the IFC Handbook was again introduced for discussion, weather and audience attitudes took on definition. As the sun appeared and the day grew warmer, temperatures rose inside as the membership debated a very controversial Appendix C in the new IFC Handbook. After a hot discussion, the Handbook with Appendix C deleted was approved by the membership.

Next the Executive Board presented a projected budget of \$16300 for fiscal 1976 to the membership, and recommended revision of the dues schedule. Where RILA dues had not been increased in nine years, new monies were now necessary to undertake studies of the Long Range Plan Implementation Committee's four objectives, to perhaps implement approved Long Range studies, to issue the Bulletin monthly, and to improve RILA efforts in communication and legislation. Much debate raged until Binky Zownir of the Hall Library rose as heroine of the day. She noted that she is in the low-income bracket, but that she will gladly pay a dues increase for a stronger RILA, because the increase is only what she would pay for a beer and some pizza. After a big round of applause for Binky's sentiments, the new dues structure passed overwhelming. Individual dues will now range from \$5 to \$15 depending on income, and institutional dues will run from \$10 to \$50 depending on operating income.

With an extraordinary amount accomplished at the Business Meeting, many members voted that in its excitement it was the high point of the conference, and was a very informative and enjoyable session. That has not been said of many library conference business meetings.

The Conference closed with a hilarious round of Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd films in a workshop presented by Tom Joslin. In good spirits many RILA members departed from Bryant to discover that the weather, sunny, bright and clear, matched their moods.

APPENDIX C

At the RILA Spring Conference the most controversial issue proved to be Appendix C of the Intellectual Freedom Committee's 1975 Handbook. So controversial was this document that the RILA membership approved the Handbook only after having excluded Appendix C. In addition, it was suggested that the IFC return to the Fall RILA conference to conduct a workshop on the issues of Appendix C, and the IFC was directed to present the said Appendix itself to the membership in the form of a resolution.

Presently the IFC has decided to write a position paper offering substantiation for their conclusions in Appendix C. This paper will probably not be completed, in view of its complexity, before autumn. Perhaps then it may serve as a basis for discussion at the fall Conference workshop. Meantime, some discussion has already begun. Following the text of Appendix C below is the first written rebuttal of it by Michael Kohl of RIC. Since discussion has already commenced, and interest in "C" appears high, the next issue of the Bulletin will focus on the subject of intellectual freedom. Responses to "C" and to the ideas of our July issue will be most welcome, and will hopefully serve as a worthy preface to substantial Fall Conference discussion.

TEXT OF APPENDIX C

While the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Rhode Island Library Association would prefer more detailed and updated statements on subjects such as sexuality and the cinema, the Committee does support the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement so far as these documents do define a balanced selection policy, and its relation to media and libraries as media distributors.

However, the RILA Intellectual Freedom Committee wishes to take exception to a recent document which has been published by the ALA's national Office for Intellectual Freedom. This document is the "Introduction" to the 1974 Office for Intellectual Freedom Intellectual Freedom Manual. From its prominent position in the Manual, as well as from its content, the "Introduction" appears to be intended to serve as the latest and fullest interpretation of numerous documents about intellectual freedom in the Manual. Among these documents are the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement.

While the RILA Intellectual Freedom Committee affirms the importance and the contents of the latter two documents, we wish to disavow the Manual's "Introduction" as an inaccurate, unrealistic and anti-intellectual interpretation of the older documents. On page xxx in another section of the Manual, Judith Krug tells us that ALA's evolving position on intellectual freedom reflects "the steady emergence of a philosophy from the entire library community". The Rhode Island Library Association and its Intellectual Freedom Committee categorically deny that the national Intellectual Freedom Committee's newest philosophy reflects that of the Rhode Island Library Association.

The specific problems the Rhode Island Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee sees in the "Introduction" to the Intellectual Freedom Manual are essentially two.

1. The national position is unrealistic. The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee in paragraph 1, line 1, defines intellectual freedom as "the right of any person to believe whatever he wants on any subject, and to express his beliefs or ideas in whatever way he thinks appropriate." This is patently absurd.

It does not recognize the restrictions that the fourth, fifth and sixth amendments place on the first amendment of the United States Constitution. It does not recognize laws regarding libel, public safety, fair trial, national security, and individual privacy. It does not recognize in its simplicity the complexity of intellectual freedom as an issue, and the controversy that complexity has produced in the fields of philosophy, social psychology, law, journalism, education, communications, and librarianship itself.

In sum the national Intellectual Freedom Committee advocates full freedom of personal expression, and the Rhode Island Library Association opposes that position because it makes no allowance for restriction of individual free expression in the interest of the common good.

A purist position on intellectual freedom today is similar to a purist position on free enterprise. The laissez-faire approach to economics, and ideas and media, is equally absurd at this time when western civilization more than ever is in need of social responsibility. And responsibility implies conscious judgement and control by a society of its members for the common good.

Such control would limit individual expression when it proved to be antisocial. Also limited, but not destroyed, would be the opportunity to hear and see whatever might credibly provoke antisocial behavior. The limits and distinctions necessary in access to information and media could be drawn by experts in the fields of psychiatry, social psychology, anthropology, human biology, ethics, the arts, law, communications, and

information science, to name but a few. As Lord Kenneth Clark has so wisely observed, civilizations rise and fall according to the distinctions they make, what they allow, and do not allow.

2. The current ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee position is anti-intellectual. Most reasonable people realize that less than total freedom is a condition of decent living in this less than perfect world. If ideas are not worth controlling and directing, are they of any significance at all? Only if ideas have no significance, only if they have no special effect whether good or evil, is a defense of ALA's complete intellectual freedom logical and tenable.

The most recent ALA interpretation of intellectual freedom as total freedom in fact implies that ideas, good or evil, do not produce effects, or effects worthy of our concern. It says ideas and expression of ideas not only may, but should, be allowed to circulate promiscuously. This ALA position underestimates the strength of ideas to produce actions, it resembles the nineteenth century businessman's disdain for ideas as rarefied, rather useless, fantasies of scholars and poets and prophets.

In summary, the ALA position on complete intellectual freedom for all human beings is very new and without tradition. It is held only by a number of librarians, and it is, in a phrase, anti-intellectual because it devalues the effect of ideas. Anyone who believes an idea can have the substance to motivate a single human being beyond his neuroses and physical needs, to free choice of a good or evil action, will find the newest ALA position on intellectual freedom philosophically misguided and pragmatically unsound.

Absolute freedom of expression is not our goal. Firm opposition to repressive and tyrannical attacks on intellectual freedom, such as those on occasion made by the federal government itself, is our goal. All individual freedom consonant with the common good is our goal.

NOTES ON AN UNNEEDED APPENDIX

- Michael F. Kohl, Assistant Librarian in
Special Collections, Rhode Island College

At the RILA 1975 spring meeting, it was suggested that persons who opposed Appendix C of the RILA Intellectual Freedom Handbook should make suggestions for improving this statement. It is difficult to offer advice on how to reconstruct a statement that is laden with generalizations and vague phraseology. Overall, the appendix demonstrates a general lack of appreciation for the function of the library in society vis-a-vis the courts, legislative bodies, and special interest groups. There are several glaring inaccuracies as well as loose terminology which is open to use by anyone wishing to censor anything.

The notion that "western civilization more than ever is in need of social responsibility" is readily debatable. Is society really less aware of social injustice and tragedy than a hundred and fifty years ago when slavery existed in the United States, when workers labored twelve to sixteen hours a day, when public education was in its infancy and child labor was common?

The suggestion that all nineteenth century businessmen disdained ideas "as rarefied, rather useless, fantasies" is ridiculous. It is a magnificent oversight of the

contributions which men like Carnegie and Mellon made to the production and dissemination of ideas via libraries. Indeed, how many librarians can honestly say that they have contributed as much to the growth of libraries in the United States as that exemplar of nineteenth century American business, Andrew Carnegie.

The appendix also contains phrases such as "anti-social behavior" and "the common good" which are undefined. These serve as catalysts for censorship. Many censors object to works being in the library for "the common good" of the community in order to prevent "anti-social behavior." A major weakness in this statement is the assumption that librarians should be guardians of the public. There is mention of laws which impose constraints upon free expression in order to protect the right to a fair trial, individual privacy, public safety, and national security. And indeed, courts have in some cases limited expression.

But that precisely is the point: courts interpret laws formulated by legislative bodies and determine what "anti-social behavior" or "the common good" is and not the libraries. This distinction involves more than a recognition of the courts' power in our society, rather it is a realization of fundamental principal of Anglo-American law: A person, in this case the author and/or publisher, is innocent until proven guilty. It rests on the court to determine whether a work is unfit to be read and/or placed in libraries. Until this decision is reached, librarians must make works of interest available to their public.

(Editor's note: who is to judge what are the 'works of interest' referred to in the concluding sentence?)

QUOTABLE QUOTES

The greatest part of the library budget is expended on personnel, and the greatest salaries are awarded to librarians who make "professional judgments." If those librarians are not in fact to judge what materials are best for the community, if it doesn't matter what materials are selected, why not hire clerks at a cheaper rate, let them choose library materials at random, and put the money saved, by not hiring librarians, into even more books?

William Bergeron

"Learning without money is anything but desirable, as it unfits a man for humble occupations."

George Borrow, Lavengro 1851

NEW RILA DUES SCHEDULE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION July 1, 1975 -
July 30, 1975
Dues Schedule----Voted May 22, 1975

Personal Income	Dues
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\$10,000 up - - - - -	\$15.00

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\$6 per day for non-members

Mail renewal form and dues to

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Regional Office, Barrington Public Library
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Barrington, Rhode Island 02806

Please pay dues by October 1, 1975. If you have already, please strengthen
RILA by inviting a friend to join.

A HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

Of dozens of Rhode Island libraries founded prior to 1875, only 12 survived to that year. Then just one hundred years ago the first state legislation was passed to fund public libraries. With the aid of state money 37 new public libraries were established by 1895.

Now in 1975 we have failed to increase state aid for the second time. Since 1971 there has been no increase and inflation has depleted state funds by 24% in the past four years. Prospects for increased state funding in 1976 are not favorable. Is the state abandoning a century old commitment to public libraries? By 2075 will public libraries have collapsed because of a lack of state aid?

UNEMPLOYMENT

Rhode Island may have the highest unemployment rate in the nation - 16.4% in May. Certainly the metropolitan Warwick-Providence-Pawtucket area ranks 3rd, after Detroit and Flint, Michigan, with a 16.

People seeking employment in libraries are urged to contact Mary Ellen Hardiman of the North Providence Union Free Library for copies of her very well done Joblist. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to her at 51 Washington Road, West Barrington, R. I. Those facing unemployment should see "Where to Go for Help in Rhode Island" in the March 16 1975 Providence Journal. This article deals with available local unemployment benefits, unemployment compensation, public assistance, aid to dependent children, food stamps,



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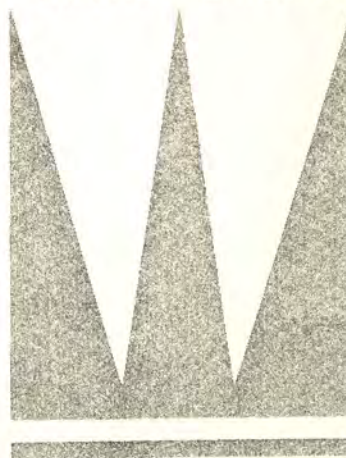
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and counseling. Photocopies are available by calling 723-5350. Channel 10's excellent June 3 television program "How to Survive Unemployment," describes how and where to collect Rhode Island unemployment benefits. A video recording of this program can be seen at the Pawtucket Public Library on demand.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE LIBRARY SERVICES

Early this month DSLS announced \$21000of incentive grant awards to the following libraries for a wide variety of projects.

	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
<u>PROVIDENCE INTERRELATED LIBRARY SYSTEM</u>		
Providence Public Library	Project BIBLIO	\$2,500.00
<u>ISLAND INTERRELATED LIBRARY SYSTEM</u>		
Barrington Public Library	Public Relations Project	\$2,500.00
<u>NORTHERN INTERRELATED LIBRARY SYSTEM</u>		
Central Falls Free Public Library	Project Reading is Fundamental	\$2,500.00
East Providence Public Library	Celebrate! Celebra! Proposal for a bilingual Newspaper	\$1,136.00
Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library (for Johnston, North Providence, Greenville, East Smithfield)	Children's Rhode Island Biography Project	\$2,500.00
Pawtucket Public Library	Home Services for Older Americans	\$2,500.00
<u>SOUTH COUNTY INTERRELATED LIBRARY SYSTEM</u>		
Westerly Public Library	Improving Library Service to Recent Italian Immigrants	\$2,500.00
South County Interrelated Library System	Blacks and Narragansett Indians	\$1,000.00
<u>WESTERN INTERRELATED LIBRARY SYSTEM</u>		
Coventry Public Library	Paperbacks at Shopping Centers	\$1,864.00
Cranston Public Library	Cranston Preschool Outreach Project	\$2,500.00

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
SIGN-UP SHEET FOR COMMITTEE WORK

Name _____

Address _____ Tel. _____

I would be interested in working on the following committee (s):
(Please check appropriate line, tear out sheet, and return to Cranston Library):

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Activity</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference	Plan Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	Participate in all-out drive to recruit new members
<input type="checkbox"/> Nominating	Select future officers
<u>PROFESSIONAL:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Government Relations	Formulate and promote library law
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Freedom	Defend freedom to read
<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach	Extend library service to non-users
<input type="checkbox"/> SCAMI	Aid librarians and institutions in personnel disputes
<u>PUBLIC AFFAIRS:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin	Improve communication within the Association through a monthly publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Trustees	Organize all Rhode Island trustees to achieve excellence in Rhode Island libraries
<u>LONG RANGE:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations	Support and promote public relations activities of the Association and Rhode Island libraries
<input type="checkbox"/> School Library Coordinator	Fill the need for a library coordinator in the R. I. Department of Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Library Card	Investigate the feasibility of a statewide library card
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Continuing education for librarians and support staff

☐ I am not able to work on a committee at this time, but I would be willing to _____

TELEVISION VIEWS FOR VIEWERS

- Richard Fitzmaurice - Audio Visual
Technician Pawtucket Public Library

"Student crime and vandalism may well be related to an emphasis in the entertainment world upon violence. The media revolution places new responsibilities to help students analyze and criticize non-classroom "educational networks" including films, advertising, television and popular songs. By age 12 most children have witnessed an average of 10,000 acts of violence."

Such is one of the conclusions of a report of the 33,000 member national association of secondary school principals. The power and implications of the mass electronic media, and especially television, have emerged so swiftly and so prominently in most people's lives that few have stopped to think of the side effects, limitations or correct use. Marshall McLuhan, the media guru, says that watching television is scuba diving. That is, a viewer is totally immersed, totally involved in television more than in any other medium known to man. If McLuhan is correct, then the most important emphasis in television viewing becomes the quality of the content of the program. There are some wonderful, entertaining and inspirational T. V. shows. With the help of T.V. Guide or similar descriptive program schedules the viewing experience can be as controlled, refined, educative and stimulating as one desires.

In the May 1975 Film Library Quarterly, General O'Grady also addressed the problem.

"We know that a contemporary American student will spend on the average of 10,000 hours in school by the time he is 18, yet he will have seen over 15,000 hours of television, 5000 of them before he goes to school at all. He will have read 50 to 100 novels, but he will have screened over 500 feature films. His life in the 21st century when he is middle-aged, will undoubtedly depend on his being able to cope with, understand, use and not be manipulated by the media. An immediate task is to bridge the gap that has developed between the culture of the media and the culture of institutions like schools and libraries."

Just as librarians and teachers regulate the input that we get from print media, via book selection, so we should regulate the input from television. In fact, these two mediums bump into each other sometimes with good results. The Public Television Library in Washington, D. C. has come out with the concept called "Watch a Book," and has written a report available on request. At the Pawtucket Public Library we are doing something along the same line. As part of our video project, we have video taped and gotten clearance for such T. V. productions or films on TV as: Red Badge of Courage and I Will Fight No More Forever. These video cassette programs, as we build up our video cassette library, will be cataloged and interfiled in the main catalog next to the card for the book. In this way patrons can get the information and enjoyment of these works in either or both mediums. We will have a display area with our video cassette player and receiver and these books next to the appropriate video cassettes with a sign that says, "Have you watched a

Today?" In this way we hope to encourage the finest use of television possible.

NEW CUMBERLAND LIBRARY

By autumn, according to estimates of Cumberland town officials, the former Cistercian monastery will be converted into a new central public library. The monastery

building and 525 surrounding acres were purchased by the town several years ago. Now, according to the Providence Journal (6/18/75), as part of a \$650,000 renovation project, a new entrance has been constructed, along with new heating, air conditioning and plumbing systems. Fire exits, an elevator, carpeting and furnishings are yet to be added before the new library with its 21,000 book collection is open to the public.

LINCOLN LIBRARY BOND ISSUE DEFEATED

While Woonsocket and Cumberland have wholeheartedly supported construction of new libraries, voters in Lincoln said No June 3 to a \$660,000 bond issue to build a new central library. This was the third rejection of a library bond issue in Lincoln in the past several years, and town legislator, Senator James Costello, said that, as far as he was concerned, the library proposal is a "dead issue."

Still, present branch libraries at Manville and Saylesville, each about a hundred years of age, are antiquated, badly in need of repair, and severely limited in space. The library board of trustees, chaired by Mrs. Marjorie Goldense, will have a difficult time improving library service in Lincoln.

CHRONICLES OF CALLIMACHUS NO. IX

"A TALE OF TOMORROW"

With the change in editorial staff it was not certain whether Callimachus would condescend to honor the Bulletin with his observations. Nor was it certain that he should be offered the opportunity to regularly irritate an even larger number of people on a regular basis. He is your editor's very close friend, however, and occasionally he seems to have a point. When he appeared amidst a heavy mist last Friday night as I let the cat out, I invited him in, decanted a little Rhine wine, listened to what he had to say, and decided to print it on a trial basis in the Bulletin. We will listen to readers' reactions before promising him a regular column.

From my notes, what follows is the substance of Callimachus' declamation last Friday night:

Do you know that the State Department of Education and the State Department of Health have required internship, examination, and certification of teachers and medical practitioners for years. To a reasonable degree this practice has insured Rhode Islanders for a number of decades that they would be served only by qualified, increasingly competent and ethical persons. Certification has kept treatment of critical aspects of each citizen's mind and body out of the hands of the inept, the indifferent, the greedy and the negligent. Greed, of course, poses no problem in modern librarianship. Anyone who entered the field for reasons of greed would have a greater problem with personal stupidity.

But ineptitude is a problem in librarianship, especially in those libraries where low pay scales attract mostly indifferent and incompetent librarians. What

constitutes professional incompetence is too often obvious; a failure to master the basic elements of the field, a failure to continue to develop and update one's knowledge of the field and tangential fields, a failure to consult with colleagues at conferences to verify one's knowledge, a failure to instruct novices in one's area of specialization through publication and public lectures, a failure to work for strong professional associations to maintain and strengthen goals and objectives of the field. What constitutes incompetence in librarianship is simply a failure to act as if one really believed that communication of information amongst human beings was really important.

What makes for sufficient competence is a more difficult question to answer. Something titled the "1970 ALA Manpower Survey" states that for the present, the master of library science degree shall be the test of professionalism, until a new method of evaluation is devised. While the Survey implies that a new and better method should be devised (no dispute there), it does not say who should devise the method. The Council of Library Technicians has begged the American Library Association to determine a new method of testing professional competence. In turn, ALA has studiously avoided even recognition of the request. Some states, such as Pennsylvania and New York have adopted their own certification of librarians. Nothing has been done, however, in Rhode Island.

Here the state university graduate library school tells us that certification is not within its province. And certification probably should not be within the province of any graduate library school since they are most financially interested in producing the greatest number of MLS graduates without regard to the market. A more independent agency, such as the Rhode Island Library Association, should investigate, determine and administer certification. And that certification might include certification not only of librarians, but of library administrators, technicians, supervisors, and assistants.

RILA has an Education Committee, now diligently at work on determining what gaps exist in local continuing education plans for all levels of library staffers. This Committee might also consider the matter of certification as its next task. For levels of certification, accompanied by recommended salary scales, would give some meaning to continuing education. Too frequently at present, continuing education in Rhode Island means personal satisfaction, but no increase in work, responsibility or salary.

Certification could also require library staffers to seek continuing education. Worthwhile certification is repeated every so many years, and recertification means an employee must demonstrate by course work (continuing education) or self study and examination that he/she has continued to improve and update knowledge of the field. Minnesota, according to the April 2nd New York Times, is about to impose 45 hours of required course work every 3 years for lawyers and judges who wish to retain their certification to practice. Would that RILA could, at some foreseeable date, require that librarians take even 6 hours of course work or the equivalent in personal research every 3 years, that library assistants take 3 hours of study every 3 years, simply in order to practice, simply in order to pass a certification examination every 3 years. And would that RILA could guarantee the salaries that lawyers and legal secretaries earn. Certification will not guarantee salaries. But it can guarantee the universal competence to argue more persuasively for decent schools.

CUTTING LIBRARY SERVICE:
ANXIETY, ANGUISH AND ANGER

With the failure to increase state funding to libraries, with public demands for 10 to 20% more service this year, with inflation rates of 8 to 12% in the past few years, and with many local library budgets increasing only a few percent in the coming year, libraries have commenced the expected series of cutbacks in personnel, materials purchase, and services.

Disasters which have already struck major university and public libraries in the nation are now coming to Rhode Island. In the U.R.I. Friends of the Library Newsletter for May, William O'Malley states that the book acquisition rate dropped 13% in the past year, and will probably drop 38% this year, because of inflation. U.R.I. serials subscriptions show an average increase of more than 20% over last year's prices. Science books rose 15% in the first 3/4's of 1974. Economics books jumped 27% between 1973 and 1974. George Parks, Dean of the URI Library, calls the budget crisis "a cruel reality."

Earlier in the season school librarians across the state began to receive notices that they would not be rehired next year. Anything like a firm estimate of how many will be laid off is not presently available, but it may be several score.

On June 7, the first major bombshell exploded when Providence Public Library announced "drastic cutbacks" in staff, materials and services beginning July 1. Library director F. Charles Taylor announced that no library employee will receive a pay raise except those covered by scheduled minimum wage increases. Eleven jobs vacated by resignations will not be filled. Nine persons will be laid off and 28 part-time employees will have their hours reduced. Total impact will be the equivalent loss of 23½ full-time positions.

In addition to staff cuts, Providence will also cut service July 1. The central library will cut 2 more evenings of service, keeping the library open only Monday and Tuesday evenings. All eight branches will close Saturdays. Michael Melikan, library business manager, noted that the library would need \$1,842,770 next year to maintain services, but has only \$1,652,613, \$17,381 less than in 1974-75. The City of Providence has increased the City's contribution to the library by only 3½% for the next year. Little has been said about the effect of the Providence cut backs on regional services. But there will be repercussions on regional offices (already themselves in financial trouble) with no state funding increase since 1971. Regional coordinators are now discussing expected problems.

Word of intended cutbacks by several other large and medium sized libraries has reached this office in the past week. Except for Champlain Library, which intends to increase its summer hours, prospects do not appear good for many Rhode Island libraries in the next fiscal year. Innovation, experiment and improvement are words that are quickly becoming part of library history.

Let us hope that the RILA Government Relations Committee keeps a careful scrap book of current cuts so that next spring we can tell Rhode Island legislators and town administrators exactly how many fewer books and hours of library service Rhode Islanders have in 1976 than they had in 1975. Perhaps five or ten thousand library staffers and library friends might stomp over the State House lawn next March to present the scrapbook to the Governor. Hooray for the Bicentennial and every citizen's right to know what is happening!

S. T. A. R. - SHARING TALENTS AND RESOURCES

The Rhode Island affiliate of the Social Responsibilities Round Table would like to identify, coordinate and help utilize the many talents of the Rhode Island library community by establishing a S. T. A. R. (Sharing Talents and Resources) directory. Initially, this would be a service primarily by and for librarians to aid in job related matters, although the skills we're looking for don't have to be solely library oriented. Feel free to add categories or make suggestions; the final scope of this project depends on you and your needs.

In this age of interlibrary cooperation, isn't the next logical step librarian-to-librarian communication? Help by filling out this form and returning it to the registration desk or mail to Kathy Paroline, c/o Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903.

Name _____ Phone _____

Library _____

Address (Library or home) _____

Please indicate your skill level on a scale of 1 (basic) to 3 (expert knowledge) next to your subject specialty or "fill in the blank" when appropriate. We encourage you to write explanations, elaborations, comments, etc. If desired, also indicate any useful contacts with local community agencies or resource people.

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 Slide Shows
 Social Responsibilities Round Table
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 Vandalism
 Weeding
 Women, Services for
 Women in Libraries
 Workshops, Conferences
 Young Adults
 Other -

LEGISLATION

Congress's most recent public employment bill is dead. It would have allowed libraries to hire highly qualified people without the strings attached to the CETA program. But Congress failed to override President Ford's veto of the measure.

In a better position is HR5427, a bill which would authorize five billion dollars for construction of public buildings, including libraries. This legislation would fund the cost of public buildings completely with federal money, and that money would go to areas of high unemployment. Rhode Island would get a minimum of twenty-five million dollars if the bill, which has passed in the House and is likely to pass in the Senate, can squeak by a presidential veto.

HEW is still trying to keep former President Nixon's Library Partnership Act legislation alive. It was apparently Mr. Nixon's intention to have that replace all LSCA funding, which would mean a loss of 60% of current federal money received. The bill is designed to support only innovative projects in information provision, and it is rather ironic since most libraries are struggling now not for innovation but for simple maintenance of service.

Current LSCA legislation will expire by fiscal 1977 unless renewed. President Ford would like to cut the fiscal 1976 appropriation to ten million dollars, while librarians are hoping that Congress allots at least 1975's \$51 million figure again.

The House of Representative has formally begun consideration of omnibus copyright revision legislation amidst considerable controversy. House Judiciary Subcommittee hearings began on HR 2223 on May 7. That bill is the result of 15 years research and compromise completed in an effort to revise current copyright legislation passed back in 1909. The basic copyright issue of the century, however, yet remains; to what extent are writers, actors, musicians and their publishers and producers to be protected from wholesale copying and recording, in the name of education, on the many devices produced by this century's technology.

ALA has advised libraries to watch for a role in the new Women's Equity Program (PL93-380). Created by the Education Amendments of 1974 the new program is intended to assist in providing equal educational opportunities for women at all levels of education. Among the activities authorized are educational activities to increase opportunities for adult women, including continuing educational activities and programs for under employed and unemployed persons. If Congress approves \$6,270,000 to implement the program in FY 1976, and it looks as if Congress will, then the Commissioner of Education will be authorized to make grants to public agencies and private non-profit organizations to establish educational projects. Watch for Federal Register toward the end of June.

ALUMNI DAY BOMBS AT SIMMONS

Simmons College sixth annual conference for library school alumni landed this May with the same dull thud as last year's alumni conference did. Devoted to a theme of "Total Library Cooperation," the Conference brought together a sufficient number of experts. Yet somehow they managed to avoid saying anything useful about cooperating in the present period of tight money. Joe Hopkins (Worcester Public Library) spoke of library cooperation in the past. Paul McGinn (legislative aide to the sponsor of the Mass. Comprehensive Library Media Services Law) spoke about why funding failed to be found to implement the media services law. Nettie Taylor of Maryland's state library agency,

spoke about how cooperation was achieved in another part of the country. And Mary McKenzie (of the New England Library Board) spoke of plans for interstate cooperation in the future. No one addressed the issue of slashed budgets and the collapse of present local cooperative library systems. Conference atmosphere, however, did bring back old memories of student days at Simmons. Sitting in an overheated room, in one seat for over 2½ hours, in a fog of cigarette smoke and stale air, listening to two indifferent lectures out of four, was reminiscent of more than one graduate seminar.

The day was saved though, as were some student days of yore, by luncheon with one of the more iconoclastic members of the faculty. Sam Goldstein, editor and publisher of Current Awareness - Library Literature and professor of library science at Simmons, and your Bulletin editor found ourselves in some agreement. Goldstein has long contended that librarians do not often read, and do not often use the serious literature of the field. Library administrators do not use it, or require it's use by librarians. And library studies and reports, employing the literature of the field as evidence, come as a surprise, and an unpopular surprise at that, to most librarians. Research, statistics, and citations are not welcome, and not apparent in discussions amongst librarians, as they would be in any traditional academic field. On the rare occasions when librarians do read, they do not get beyond the level of Library Journal, which makes no more intellectual demand, according to Goldstein, than Playboy or Ms. From one end of the year to the other there is no need to grapple with as much as one complex idea in L. J. Yet it is the overwhelming choice of most librarians, simply because they most enjoy the rebus world of gossip and opinion.

GALLIMAUFRY

Jim Giles announces that additional copies of RILA's Annual Report are available and may be had by telephoning the Cranston Library, 781-2450.

Charles Churchwell, Director of Brown University Libraries, and Sherri Bergman (former director of Roger Williams, now Director of Wheaton College Library) have been elected to ALA Council. Ms. Bergman has also published an article in American Libraries (June 1975) titled "A Cloud of Unknowing." Jim Healey's "Invitation to a Smoke Filled Room" appears as interesting reading in WLB May 1975.

From October 31 to November 2 this year the First World Fantasy convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Providence. It will be devoted to fantasy fiction, will feature Robert Bloch and Gahan Wilson, and will focus to a large degree on Providence's H. P. Lovecraft. Write Kirby McCauley, P. O. Box 135, Middle Village Station, Middle Village, Long Island, N. Y. 11379 for more information.

For the first time in memory the directorships of three state library agencies in New England are open or about to be. Walter Brahm in Connecticut has announced his retirement as of October 15, Elizabeth Myer retired here in Rhode Island in March, and Emil William Allen of the New Hampshire Agency died suddenly this spring.

'Most interesting article of the month' award goes to Josephine Riss Fang of Simmons for her "Chinese Libraries Carry Out Chairman Mao's Dictum 'Serve the People'" in WLB, June 1975. Mrs. Fang points out that in China, formal education for librarianship is rare. Most librarians learn the occupation by on-the-job-training. Librarians follow their readers, bringing books into the factories and communes. And librarians take an active part in promoting the literature of "socialist reconstruction."

One issue of American Libraries not to miss is the May one devoted to four articles "Challenging the Profession's Sacred Cows." While some of the articles ramble a bit, each makes a number of very good, not easily refuted points.

Pawtucket has just received a grant from the Pawtucket Community Arts Council for the purchase of a video camera and portable video recorder to complement its video cassette service. The library's AV technician Richard Fitzmaurice, who is now busy cataloging video cassettes for the shelves, plans to begin by video taping local cultural and artistic activities for permanent record in the library.

Social Responsibilities Round Table, reports L. J. Hotline (June 2), has protested the firing of a librarian at Los Angeles Public Library on the grounds of insubordination. According to SRRT, a professional cannot be insubordinate because a professional is hired to do a job, not to do what he/she is told. Therefore, a public administrator has no higher claim to deference than does any other professional in a library. Hotline states that one question that must be faced is to what extent "professionalism" in the library community should be carried. For that matter, what evidence can librarians muster to prove that they should have independence of their institutions, that they have the intense and developing knowledge of the field, that they can and do shoulder judgmental responsibilities comparable to medical doctors and university professors?

NEWS BRIEFS

The Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries will provide interlibrary loans within set limits, on a one year trial basis, beginning July 1, 1975. More about this in the next issue.

David A. Green of the Cambridge (Mass.) Public Library AV Department has been appointed the new director of the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"To one who lacks money
the world is but a great
debtor's prison."

G. Gissin, Demos

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD
AND COUNSELORS

- James Giles, President,
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- Daniel Bergen, Vice President
(July 1, 1975)
Graduate Library School, URI
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Lincoln Public Library (724-5470)

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Implementation Committee.
(incl. publicist, continuing education,
state library card and school library
coordinator subcommittees)
Rhode Island College Library (831-6600)

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"One puzzling finding seems to indicate that the more books that are added to an elementary (school) library, the lower the achievement level of the students."

-Anita Summers and Barbara Wolfe

"Study of Which School Resources
Help Learning," reported Prov. Journal
6/1/75.

"The typical public library administrator ... is fundamentally bureaucratic rather than professional. For he is a political man, a careful man, conditioned by his education, his experience and his sense of the community to be patient, reasonable, controlled and undramatic in his demands or in his actions."

- Mary Lee Bundy and Paul Wasserman,
The Public Library Administrator and his
Situation, 1972

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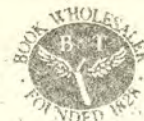
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CLARIFICATION

- Roberta Cairns

In order to correct any misunderstandings regarding the cancellation of the scheduled appearance by Mr. Julius Michaelson at the Spring Conference, we are reporting the situation as it occurred.

Mr. Michaelson's office gave us a tentative "yes" to our invitation to Mr. Michaelson to speak at the RILA Conference and said that if there were any problems regarding the schedule they would get back to us. The program was prepared and mailed out with Mr. Michaelson scheduled, because we had heard nothing to the contrary. During the week before the Conference, Mr. Michaelson's office called to say that he would not be able to attend the RILA meeting because he had a previously scheduled meeting that he thought he could reschedule but was unable to do so. His office apologized and said that Mr. Michaelson was anxious to speak to Rhode Island librarians and he hoped that he would be invited again in the near future.

The Conference Committee apologizes for any inconvenience to librarians who attended the Conference and had not received the message or heard the announcements that Mr. Michaelson would not be attending our meeting.

NOTE FROM R. I. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Back issues of Rhode Island History and our collections are now available through a reprinting arrangement concluded with University Microfilms, a division of Xerox Corporation. The Society no longer has complete sets of back issues for schools and libraries, but facsimile sets will be available on film and in Xerographic copies. A large number of random back issues are available at John Brown House, 52 Power Street. We invite schools and public libraries to come to the House to fill out their collections. The House is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 to 5 and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4.

THE TERRIBLE TRUTH

Rhode Island was once the most industrialized state in the union; originator and mainstay of the woolen and cotton textile industry for 150 years; key manufacturer of engines, tools, arms, jewelry, and rubber goods; home of scores and scores of ingenious inventors, smiths and businessmen for over two centuries. That this Rhode Island should have no state scientific and industrial museum in which to collect and proudly display the most important productions of its history is a disgrace.

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F. W. Faxon Company, Inc., library magazine subscription agency, is extending its customer service throughout the United States by means of regional sales representatives. The most recent appointment is Roy J. Reinalda who will service the Northeast from Faxon's home office in Westwood, Massachusetts. Dial toll free 1 800 225 7894.

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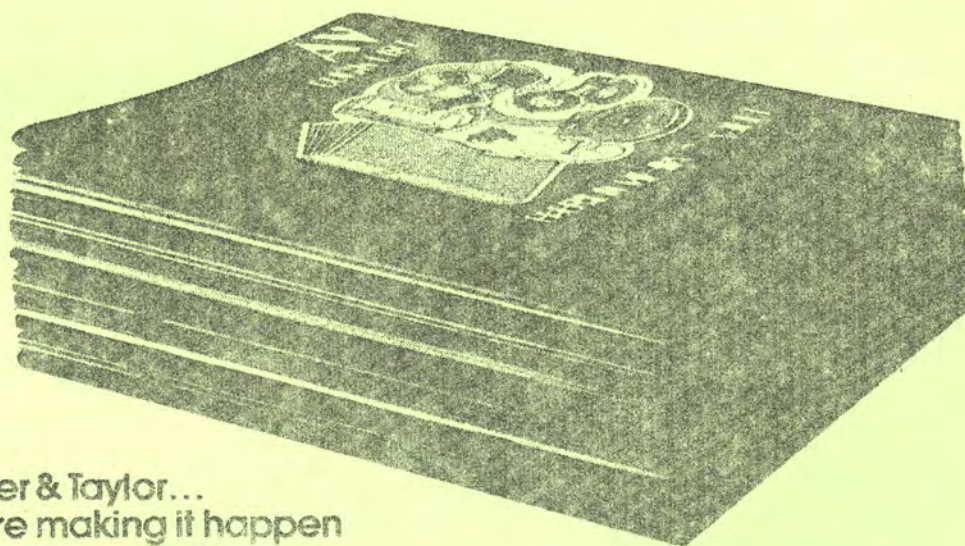
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